

As one of the Deaf government employees, I am concerned about the proposed changes in VRS funding that will affect the Deaf community negatively, and as a result the workforce in general.

One of the negative effects will be the Deaf's ability to effectively communicate during impromptu meetings, and general meetings within both the government and private agencies.

Interpreters are still in short supply, and the procedures required to reserve one are cumbersome. If we are ever to achieve full integration of the deaf into the workforce, they must have the same access to interpreters/communicational means in whatever form, as the Hearing have to their ears.

If this demeaning proposal is accepted, then the impact will be one that will greatly hamper all efforts to effectively make use of ALL our human resources.